

WIND POWER – THE WRONG COLOR GREEN

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The Great Lakes stretching across the country's northern tier have aptly been described by the scientific community as "a jeweled necklace consisting of five sparkling diamonds". These vast inland seas represent a fresh water resource with life supporting amenities that are without equal on a global scale. New York State is indeed wealthy and privileged in this respect. It is one of a few States with the opportunity to contribute to the long term management and perpetuation of these global treasures. This is an immense task that requires perceptive, imaginative, and knowledgeable leadership.

Do we have that leadership...apparently not? Our governor and representative's are plunging headlong into the development of energy producing alternatives that are based upon nothing more than thoughtless buzzword generated knee jerk reactions. The proposed hardly green Galloo Island wind farm is a glaring example of incompetence and ignoranc.

The Hounsfield project involves the installation of 84 wind turbine/generators approximately 1000 feet apart across the width and breadth of the little four mile long island. The units, which are well over 400 feet high, will essentially be placed upon shallow bed rock which ranges up to an additional 55 feet above lake level. The approval to convert one of the few US islands in the entire lake into a visual eyesore of this magnitude will literally destroy the aesthetic qualities of the Eastern Basin...not to mention the unthinkable precedent it will establish.

In its I Love NY and Seaway Trail literature, among others, New York State proudly extols (at considerable public expense) the virtues of the "Big Lake" and its tributaries. Prospective anglers are lured by visions of noisy riffles and clear waist deep streams flagged with shade producing trees and shrubs. Open water boaters are shown enjoying sunsets on an uncluttered endless horizon...not unlike that experienced on the ocean. These images just touch upon the visual qualities that contribute to the overall fishing and boating experience most of us cherish.

Once again it appears that the only shade of green involved this unthinkable proposal is clearly visible in tax payer subsidies and higher costs to the rate payer. On the bright side...look at it this way. We will have our very own uneconomical invasive monuments in the sky to support the need for the contemplated addition of reliable nuclear back-up at nine mile point. Let us also not forget that the State's endless and expensive political tap dance around the cormorant predation issue in the Eastern Basin will also be resolved. The birds simply can't tolerate our presence!!!

For comparison purposes the nine mile point cooling tower is 543 feet high. The twin stacks at Oswego top out at 700 feet. These intrusive visual elements, no doubt, would have been hotly contested in a PSC Article VIII proceeding. An analysis and decision concerning the aesthetic impact of the transmission line towers and right of way clearing to Parish is also mandatory in the PSC's applicable Article VII proceeding. The Barclays are well acquainted with the visual amenities of the landscape. After all, they went to the trouble to bury the distribution lines along the entire road frontage of their Rte 13 Douglaston Manor